

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

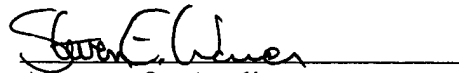
Claims 1-33 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15-21, 23 and 25-33 are independent. Claims 9, 10, 18-20, 29 and 30 have been amended to clarify features of the invention, while claims 31-33 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-30 were previously allowed in this application. Applicant submits that foregoing amendment to claims 9, 10, 18-20, 29 and 30 do not affect the allowability of these claims. Therefore, claims 1-30 should remain allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 31-33 patentably define of features of the determining method, the device manufacturing method and the device manufacturing apparatus of the present invention. Accordingly, these claims likewise should be deemed allowable.

Applicant submits, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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